

# Royal Wolf Lodge

A L A S K A

P.O. Box 191007, Anchorage, Alaska 99519 USA

Phone: (907) 248-3256. Fax: (907) 248-7077

E-mail: [Branham@royalwolf.com](mailto:Branham@royalwolf.com) Web: [www.royalwolf.com](http://www.royalwolf.com)

Mr. Eric Taylor  
D.O.T. P.F.  
Division of State Planning  
3132 Channel Drive, Room 220  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

March 25, 2002

Ref: Igiugig Airport Extension

Dear Mr. Taylor;

In review of your South West Alaska area transportation plan, our interest is in the plans for Igiugig airport, which calls for additional 300 feet of runway. This added length would not provide any increased practical benefit for aircraft that currently use it. If the total length was increased to 4,000-feet it would greatly benefit larger aircraft, and in turn would substantially benefit the area economically for the long term.

Freight cost for chartered cargo aircraft from Anchorage, with payloads over 6,500-pounds currently run a minimum of .52-cents, to \$1.41 per pound. Landing weights are restricted, which increases load costs. Take-off weights are even more restricted which prevents any back-hauled freight out of Igiugig.

Igiugig is serviced through Iliamna or King Salmon. The cost for air freight, other than U.S. Post Office mail is totally prohibitive at a cost of \$2.50 to \$5.00 per pound, at current rates. (These rates are increasing this summer.)

Barge service to Igiugig has been difficult, or limited. It is not a suitable or reliable place to dock. This area is susceptible to strong winds, large waves, and strong currents. It would not be an alternate form of freight service.

The community of Igiugig has stressed a need for better freight service. We are sure the borough would also support this since costs continue to increase. Current freight to Igiugig annually is between 90,000 to 200,000 pounds, excluding U.S. Mail service.

The Igiugig airport runway extension improvements would be the most cost effective plan, due to the terrain, and easy access to available materials for construction. Extending the current runway to a total of 4,000 feet, would most certainly satisfy the needs for this area for the next 25 years.

We trust that you will take into consideration these factors when you finalize your plans for the Igiugig airport improvements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris and Linda Branham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "L".

Chris and Linda Branham  
Royal Wolf Lodge

cc Iguigig Village Council